May 21, 2010

This edition of the COD Processing Update will remain on the COD Web site until a new edition is posted. We will notify schools via a COD Web Message when a new edition has been posted.

Grant Programs
ACG, National SMART Grant, Pell Grant, and TEACH Grant

COD News

UPDATED!

Federal Pell Grant 2010-2011 Award Year Initial Authorization for Advanced Funded Schools (05/13/10)
We have begun processing the Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) Initial Authorization for the 2010-2011 Award Year, for schools that receive Pell Grant funds under the advanced funding method. A school's Initial Authorization, known in the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System as Current Funding Level (CFL), is determined based on a percentage of the disbursement data submitted and accepted during the 2009-2010 Award Year.

For the 2010-2011 Award Year, the Pell Grant appropriation has been supplemented with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Pub. L. 111-5. To comply with federal financial and accounting requirements of the ARRA, the funding of the Initial Authorization will be done in two parts as follows:

- On May 11, 2010, we generated an Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) that lists the amount of a school's Initial CFL for the 2010-2011 Award Year and sent it to the school's Student Aid Information Gateway (SAIG) mailbox (Message Class PGAS11OP).

- Subsequent to the May 11, 2010 Initial CFL processing, we generated a second CFL increase and a second ESOA. We sent the second ESOA to the school's SAIG mailbox (Message Class PGAS11OP).

For complete information about the Federal Pell Grant 2010-2011 Award Year Initial Authorization for Advanced Funded schools, refer to the May 13, 2010 Electronic Announcement that is posted on the IFAP Web site.

Note: On May 20, 2010, Federal Student Aid updated this Electronic Announcement to correct the earliest date on which a school may disburse a Pell Grant for the 2010-2011 Award Year.

Two Common Record XML Tags for Pell Grant Awards Sent in Incorrect Order (05/19/10)
Federal Student Aid has determined that two Common Record XML tags are being returned in both Pell Grant Common Record Responses and Pell Grant System-Generated Responses (Negative Disbursement Responses) in the incorrect order. As a result, some schools may be unable to import the response files.

The <ScheduledGrant> tag is being returned in the response block after the <LifetimeEligibilityUsed> tag. However, the <ScheduledGrant> tag should be placed before the <LifetimeEligibilityUsed> tag in order to match the Common Record XML Schema 3.0c.

Federal Student Aid plans to correct the order of the tags on May 25, 2010. If a school's software is programmed to edit the order of the tags, the COD System will still process incoming records, but the school will not be able import the response files until the correction is made. Federal Student Aid recommends any school using software that edits on the order of the tags *not* send 2010-2011 Pell Grant origination and disbursements records until after the fix is completed.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience this issue may have caused. If you have additional questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Impact on COD Processing May 23, 2010 (05/19/10)
Federal Student Aid is planning several system maintenance activities on May 23, 2010. In addition, the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) will be unavailable from 3:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET) due to its regular Sunday morning maintenance. These activities will result in outages of certain COD System functionality for a period of time.

An explanation of how these activities will impact COD System availability and processing follows below. Please review this information to determine if processing at your school will be affected.

Routine COD System Maintenance

On *Sunday, May 23, 2010*, we will perform system maintenance on the COD System. The impact to COD users is outlined below.

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD Web site between 1:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. (ET).

- An individual will not be able to complete online Direct Loan Entrance Counseling, complete a new Master Promissory Note (MPN) electronically, or complete a Direct PLUS Loan Request electronically via the StudentLoans.gov Web site between 1:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. (ET).

- An individual will not be able to complete TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling, complete a new TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS), or retrieve an existing ATS via the TEACH Grant Web site between 1:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. (ET).

- Between 1:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. (ET), batches submitted by schools via the SAIG will be held or schools will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.

Contact Information

Federal Student Aid appreciates your patience and understanding as it completes this important activity. If you have any questions about the COD System, the StudentLoans.gov Web site, or the TEACH Grant Web site, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you have any

questions about the SAIG, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

NEW!

Impact on COD Processing May 30-31, 2010 (05/21/10)
Federal Student Aid is planning several system maintenance activities during the period May 30-31, 2010. In addition, the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) will be unavailable from 3:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, May 30, 2010 due to its regular Sunday morning maintenance. These activities will result in outages of certain COD System functionality for a period of time.

An explanation of how these activities will impact COD System availability and processing follows below. Please review this information to determine if processing at your school will be affected.

Routine COD System Maintenance

On *Sunday, May 30, 2010*, we will perform system maintenance on the COD System. The impact to COD users is outlined below.

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD Web site between 12:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).

- An individual will not be able to complete online Direct Loan Entrance Counseling, complete a new Master Promissory Note (MPN) electronically, or complete a Direct PLUS Loan Request electronically via the StudentLoans.gov Web site between 12:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).

- An individual will not be able to complete TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling, complete a new TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS), or retrieve an existing ATS via the TEACH Grant Web site between 12:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).

- Between 12:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M (ET), batches submitted by schools via the SAIG will be held or schools will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.

Memorial Day Federal Holiday

Monday, May 31, 2010 is the Memorial Day Federal holiday.

- The COD School Relations Center will be closed.
- The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back responses/acknowledgements, but schools will not be able to receive any Federal funds on that day. Requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

Complete information regarding processing and customer service hours for COD and other Federal Student Aid/Department of Education call centers on the holiday will be posted in an Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

2010-2011 ISIR Reprocessing on May 18, 2010 to Identify Pell-Eligible Records Based on Revised 2010-2011 Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules (05/14/10)

In an electronic announcement posted to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site on May 5, 2010, Federal Student Aid alerted schools that we will reprocess 2010-2011 Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs) for applicants who applied prior to May 6, 2010 who may now be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) according to the 2010-2011 payment and disbursement schedules published in Dear Colleague Letter P-10-03. This reprocessing will take place **May 18, 2010**.

The May 18, 2010 reprocessing will impact application and correction records processed prior to May 6, 2010, for students not designated as being "Pell Grant Eligible" under earlier formulas but who are now eligible for a 2010-2011 Pell Grant. Federal Student Aid estimates that less than 250,000 student records will be reprocessed. New 2010-2011 Student Aid Reports (SARs) and ISIRs will be generated for students impacted by this reprocessing.

For complete information about the 2010-2011 ISIR Reprocessing to identify Pell-eligible records based on the revised 2010-2011 Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules, refer to the May 14, 2010 Electronic Announcement that is posted on the IFAP Web site.

Update on Operational Implementation of Increased Title IV Student Assistance to Children of Certain Deceased Members of the U.S. Military (05/14/10)

In an electronic announcement posted on November 6, 2009 to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, Federal Student Aid provided background information and operational guidance on the statutory provisions for increased Title IV student financial assistance for a student whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001.

In a subsequent electronic announcement posted on the IFAP Web site, Federal Student Aid provides updated information about the process it is using to identify eligible students under these provisions.

Weekly Reminders

NEW!

COD Computer-Based Training (05/21/10)
Federal Student Aid takes this opportunity to remind the community of the availability of the COD Computer-Based Training (CBT). The COD CBT includes enhancements that have been made to the COD System, the COD Web site, and associated Web sites and software products through June 27, 2009.

The COD CBT consists of component simulations and CBTs. Each COD CBT component is explained below. The electronic files associated with each component, as well as information about downloading and navigating the COD CBT, are available on the Information for Financial

Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. Under the "Tools for Schools" section on the home page, click on COD Computer-Based Training.

Note: With the implementation of the StudentLoans.gov Web site at the end of March 2010, the three electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) simulations no longer reflected the process for electronically completing Direct Loan MPNs and have been removed. We will post updated electronic MPN simulations when we next update the full version of the COD CBT.

The components of the COD CBT are as follows:

COD System Simulations – The COD System Simulations offer lessons that explain the COD Web site screens and functionality available to a school administrator. There are 14 lessons with text to guide a user through each area of the COD Web site. By entering fictitious data, the user can explore basic navigation and functions of the COD Web site and practice locating and creating information in a safe environment that includes tips for assistance.

Direct Loan Reports CBT – The Direct Loan Reports CBT includes several sections that explain the COD reports a school can use to assist with the administration of and reconciliation process for William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) awards.

Grant Reports CBTs – The Grant Reports CBTs are four separate lessons that explain the COD reports a school can use to assist with the administration of and reconciliation process for Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant), and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant awards.

Direct Loan (DL) Tools Simulation – The DL Tools Simulation demonstrates how to use the DL Tools software to assist with the reconciliation process for Direct Loan awards. Although the simulation can be used both by schools that use the EDExpress for Windows software and schools that do not use this software, the simulation is especially useful for schools that do not use the EDExpress software on a regular basis but are interested in a Direct Loan reconciliation resource.

TEACH Grant Web Site Simulation – The TEACH Grant Web site Simulation guides the user through the TEACH Grant Web site and includes a step-by-step walk through of the process for completing TEACH Grant counseling and completing a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS).

If you have questions or comments about the COD CBT, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you e-mail your question or comment to CODSupport@acs-inc.com, please include "COD CBT Question/Comment" in the subject line.